

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 23-0501
Client's Docket No. 15326

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **PATRICIA MELZER**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
HAIR STYLING VACUUM DEVICE of which the following is a
specification:

HAIR STYLING VACUUM DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to hair vacuum and suction devices and more particularly pertains to a new hair styling vacuum
10 device for removing liquid from hair wrapped around a curler.

Description of the Prior Art

The use of hair vacuum and suction devices is known in the
15 prior art. Illustrative examples include: U.S. Patent No. 5,267,372; U.S. Patent No. 5,924,215; and U.S. Patent No. 6,434,855.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a device that has
20 a suction nozzle specifically tailored to fir over various size curlers for quickly removing water from the hair wrapped around the curler.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

While there is little dispute that a career as a barber or hairstylist can be both lucrative and fun, there are those tasks related to styling hair which can be less than enjoyable for both the stylist and the client. Specifically, the task of drying a client's hair during a routine permanent can be both daunting and exhausting. When a stylist perms a client's hair, the hair is tightly rolled in specially designed curlers and the permanent solution is readily applied. Once the solution has set on the hair, the stylist must rinse thoroughly dry hair, before the curlers are removed. In order to dry the hair without removing the curlers, the stylist must utilize a towel and actually "blot" the hair dry. A time consuming process, blotting the hair can take several minutes and can be physically taxing for the stylist,-- as this process requires them to tightly squeeze each roller with the towel in order to absorb all of the water. For the client, this process can be extremely painful, as squeezing the curlers in this manner tends to pull the hair. Further, the repeated action of the hair being squeezed against the spiky curlers can actually damage the hair. As the perming solution tends to make the hair very fragile and soft, the process of blotting the hair can cause breakage and split ends.

The present invention provides a practical solution to the aforementioned problems. The present invention is a specially designed "wet vacuum" configured specifically to pull moisture and water from hair. A standard wet vac is a vacuum cleaner which operates via an internally contained motor, which, when activated provides ample suction action to quickly remove liquid spills, dirt and debris from carpeting and flooring. This collected water and debris then passes through a filter and is deposited into an

internally contained reservoir which can be emptied on demand. As with a traditional wet vac, the vacuum portion of the present invention would operate in a similar manner, via an internally contained motor and suction system. Additionally, the invention
5 has an integrated water reservoir which could be configured to be removable, or would feature a simple drainage plug to empty the unit. The device could be manufactured of heavy duty plastic material and would feature steel and electronic components. For ease of use, this product would feature an integrated "U"-shaped
10 handle, positioned at the top of the unit and designed to afford a stable and steady grip. Most notably, a suction nozzle would be gently contoured to snugly fit over most small, medium and large size perm curlers.

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There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better
20 appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features
25 of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is
5 given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a new hair styling vacuum device according to the present invention.

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Figure 2 is a schematic side view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic side view of the present invention.

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Figure 4 is a schematic cross-sectional view of the present invention.

20 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 4 thereof, a new hair styling vacuum device embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and
25 generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 4, the hair styling vacuum device 10 generally comprises a vacuum assembly 20 and a suction nozzle member 40. The vacuum assembly 20 includes a
30 housing 22 which defines an interior space. The vacuum assembly 20 includes a motor assembly 30 positioned within the interior space, a vent portion 23 extending through a perimeter wall of the housing 22, a filter member 33 and a reservoir member 36. The

housing 22 includes a spout portion 24 in environmental communication with the reservoir member 36. Preferably, the filter member 33 is positioned between the spout portion 24 and the reservoir member 36.

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The suction nozzle member 40 is operationally coupleable to the spout portion 24. The suction nozzle 40 is positionable around a curler to facilitate suction from the motor assembly 30 being directed around the curler.

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A handle member 27 may be operationally coupled to the housing 22. The handle member 27 facilitates placement of the suction nozzle 40 adjacent to a desired curler.

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In an embodiment the handle member 27 is coupled to a top portion of the housing 22, and the handle member 27 is substantially U-shaped.

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In a further embodiment the handle member 27 includes a plurality of finger grooves 28 for facilitating a secure grip around the handle member 27 by a user.

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A suction control means 50 may be used to facilitate control of an amount of suction applied to the suction nozzle 40. The suction control means 50 may be operationally coupled to the motor assembly 30 to control an amount of suction developed, or may provide a bleed-off path to divert a portion of the suction away from the spout portion 24.

A suction adjustment member 51 may be positioned on an external portion of the housing 22. The suction adjustment member 51 is operationally coupled to the suction control means 50 and facilitates user adjustment of the suction control means 50.

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In a preferred embodiment the suction nozzle member 40 includes an arcuate portion 41 to facilitate concentration of suction around a desired curler.

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In a further embodiment the housing 22 further comprises an access panel 21. The access panel 21 facilitates user access to the reservoir member 36. The reservoir member 36 is removable from the housing 22 to facilitate emptying the reservoir member 36.

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In another embodiment the housing 22 further comprises a drain portion 25 and a drain plug 26. The drain portion 25 is environmentally coupled to the reservoir member 36. The drain portion 25 extends through a perimeter wall of the housing 22. The drain portion 25 facilitates emptying the reservoir member 36. The drain plug 26 is positionable in the drain portion 25. The drain plug 26 selectively closes the drain portion 25 for maintaining suction for removal of a liquid from hair wrapped around a curler. The drain plug 26 is selectively removable from the drain portion 25 to facilitate emptying the reservoir member 36.

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With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

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Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

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